

welfare program, whether it be the Freedom to Farm Act or whether it be current policy.

Mr. President, we need action. This President needs to act. He needs to come to the table to work with us on a balanced budget and in so doing to be able to craft and move or resolve the issue that we are currently involved in that has brought real stalemate to the agricultural communities of our country.

That is why I propounded these two very important unanimous consent requests this afternoon, to see if it would not move our President off center and allow flexibility, both for the Senate and for our Secretary, to get on with the business of telling American agriculture what they can expect in the coming crop year.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President. Actually the words "safety net" came from President Ronald Reagan who described a series of programs that represented the safety net, an important one of which is Social Security. I do not expect anyone here would make the case that Social Security is welfare or that Ronald Reagan meant that Social Security was welfare. That is a program workers pay into and at some point get some returns when they reach retirement.

So to use the words "safety net," using the term of President Reagan, was to refer to the opportunity to try to provide some help for people who need some help through a series of programs, some of which might be welfare but many of which were not, including Social Security which is not a welfare program and the farm program which was never a welfare program.

EXTENDING THE CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I would propose one additional unanimous-consent request and am constrained, I guess, not to offer the third. I felt that as long as we were offering unanimous consent requests, the most logical-unanimous consent request is to come here and say, well, let us at least now understand that Friday we have a CR that needs extension or we will have a shutdown.

The shutdown, it seems to me, is an example of what we have been through a couple of times, of poking taxpayers in the eye by saying, "You pay for a couple hundred thousand people that will be prevented from coming to work, and we insist you pay for them," and then dangle Federal workers in front of this debate and say, "By the way, you're the pawns we're going to use."

If we have not been cured of Government shutdowns and the chaos that comes by using CR's as some kind of a line in the sand here where everybody else pays but nobody else suffers, if we have not cured ourselves of that apparently there is no cure for what ails us.

My urge is to offer a CR that says, let us extend the CR that expires on Friday at a minimum of 2 weeks, but I shall not do that. I will not do that in deference to the leadership. I think if one were to do this sort of thing, one would want to notify the leadership.

So my urge is to want to do this, and maybe sometime I will, as long as someone else comes out wanting to offer unanimous-consent requests. But I will not do that in deference to the leadership today.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST

Mr. DORGAN. I will offer one additional unanimous-consent request. It does deal specifically with something that I know the Senator from Idaho cares about because he raised it a few minutes ago. He was concerned I did not include it in my legislation. That is some forgiveness of the advanced crops deficiency payments for 1995.

My legislation on page 3, which I introduced earlier today, and is at the desk, provides for the forgiveness of certain advanced deficiency payments for those crop producers who suffered a loss.

The Senator from Idaho raised that. I know he cares about it and I care about it. If we cannot pass the entire bill, let us at least pass that entire provision that both of us care about and both of us think should be passed. The forgiveness of the advanced deficiency payments is critically important to a lot of family farm producers out there. We do not need a large debate about that. Let us go ahead and do this.

So I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of a bill to provide for forgiveness of 1995 advance crop deficiency payments, as I described, and that the bill be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GRAMS). Is there objection?

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I have to object this evening. Maybe this is the kind of legislation that we could include in the CR this coming Friday. I think the Senator from North Dakota and I both know well that we are going to have to deal with a continuing resolution come Friday; that we are not going to shut the Government down anymore; that the President does not want to shut the Government down anymore.

At least out of all of this budget discussion that has gone on for the last good number of weeks, both the executive branch and the legislative branch have come to that conclusion, and I agree that that is the proper conclusion.

The Senator brings up an important point, that is why I brought it up, because it was not in his original unanimous consent, and I had hoped that we be thorough in dealing with this issue. I am glad the Senator has brought it up. It is a question of great concern. It is a repayment of nearly \$2 billion of advance deficiency payments.

I hope that we can resolve this issue, but it is not a separate issue to be resolved tonight. I think the Senator has brought it to the floor with just intention, and because he has raised the issue to the level of visibility that he does tonight, I hope that maybe that is something we will consider as we deal with final resolution toward the end of the week of a continuing resolution, but I do object at this time.

Mr. DORGAN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I know it is technical, but I did include that in my first unanimous-consent request. It was something I mentioned in connection with three provisions in the UC that I offered. But I observe, this is not a rider that needs a horse. This is a provision that does not need to wait for Friday. It does not need to wait for next July. It does not need to wait for something else that is moving. It can be done any time.

The reason I offer it is, I would like to see an extension of the current farm bill for a year with the provisions I suggested. If that is not possible, I would like to see us decide to tell farmers what is possible. It ought to be possible for us to deal with the forgiveness of advance deficiency payments. It does not, as I said, need something else coming along to jump on. This is not a cargo looking for a train. This is an idea we ought to advance.

I encourage us, if we cannot do it tonight, let us do it tomorrow. If we cannot do it tomorrow, let us do it the next day.

The one thing I suggest to the Senator from Idaho, when we talk about continuing appropriations and shutdowns—I am delighted there will not be any more shutdowns, and I pray there will not be, because I do not think it serves anyone's interest. Nobody wins. The way we are able to avoid that is the way we are able to convince everybody in this Capitol Building on all sides that they cannot use this as leverage any longer; they cannot threaten someone over a CR—"If you don't have this, we won't enact a CR"—and that is what results in a shutdown.

Let me say, I understand the objection. I expected the objection. My hope is that perhaps tomorrow—I do not know if anybody will be doing unanimous-consent requests tomorrow, but if we do, I have a number of good ideas. This is one of them, and I would like this idea to sort of lead the parade here. We should do the things that both of us would agree on, that both of us think are important for our farmers, that both of us believe would represent good policy. If that is the case, let both of us do it together, either now or tomorrow morning.

I guess since there is an objection now, maybe we can talk about it again tomorrow. Again, I understand exactly what has happened. This, one way or another, needs to get resolved.

The Senator from Nebraska was on the floor, the Senator from Iowa, the